**Easter Sunday April 9, 2023**

**Why the Resurrection Still Matters – Luke 24:1-12**

1. The Tomb **Was Empty** Luke 24:1-3

* “But”
  + See Luke 23:50-56 which describes the burial
* “First Day”
  + Sunday
  + The Sabbath, the seventh day, is sundown Friday night until Sundown Saturday night
  + The Sabbath was a day of rest so the women could not put the spices on the Lord’s body until after the Sabbath ended
* “spices”
  + Used for preservation of the body in a time when there was no embalming in the hot and dry climate of Israel
* “tomb”
  + Joseph of Arimathea had put his body there  
    (Luke 23:50-56)
* “stone rolled away”
  + The Pharisees had sealed the time and posted guards to prohibit someone from stealing the body
  + See Matthew 27:62-66
* “but when they entered”
  + The body was not there!
  + The women watched Joseph put the body there   
    (Luke 23:55)
  + They were shocked, astonished, and bewildered at what they were seeing

2. Two Angels **Brought News** Luke 24:4-7

* Any time humans see angels, there is an instant moment of fear which results in one of two responses:
  + Worship: that’s what these women do
  + Sheer terror: typically those who are far from God: “they shook and became like dead men” (Matthew 28:4)
* “Why do you seek the living One among the dead?”
  + These were the first ones to the tomb according to all of the Gospel accounts
  + They were the first to hear, “He is not here, **but** He has risen”
* The angels reminded the women that Jesus predicted His own resurrection (see Matthew 17:22-23)

3. The Apostles **Would Not Believe the Women** Luke 24:8-12

* The women, seeing the empty tomb, and being reminded of the prophecy that Jesus made about Himself, believed
  + They hurried to tell the eleven and other Christ followers of what they had seen and heard
* These women were well known to the apostles because they were frequently together
  + Luke gives the names of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James to add credibility to the report
  + Some of the women in this group used their own money to support Jesus’ ministry
* “But these words appeared to them as nonsense”
  + Ignoring the fulfilled prophecy that they heard from Jesus with their own ears!
* “they would not believe them”
  + The women had proven themselves trustworthy
  + Despite this, at least 10 of the apostles remain unconvinced
* Peter is the lone exception
  + “But Peter got up and ran to the tomb”
  + Peter entertains the possibility of their report being true

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